

Breeding stations of the Fairy Tern between Dongara and Lancelin, Western Australia.—During my avifaunal survey of the coastal strip and islands between Dongara and Lancelin from 1957 to 1964, no breeding colony of the Fairy Tern *Sterna nereis* was discovered but it was reported that Mr. I. Edgar had previously found the species nesting on the sandy point opposite Edward Island (Ford, *Emu*, 1965, 64: 184). Two breeding localities have since been discovered.

On January 20, 1971, I found a colony of about 200 adults on the high part of the eastern beach of Boullanger Island, and made the following breeding census: nests with one egg, 29; nests with two eggs, 7; nests with one egg and one chick, 3; nests with one chick, 15; and nests with two chicks, 8. On December 16, 1964, Dr. E. Lindgren found about 150 pairs with eggs and small downy chicks on the western beach of Whitlock Island.

Some interesting additional records to the birds of Boullanger Island made on January 20, 1971 were: Grey Plover, *Pluvialis squatarola*, 18; Large Sand Dottercl, *Charadrius leschenaultii*, 5; Bar-tailed Godwit, *Limosa limosa*, 3; Grey-tailed Tattler, *Tringa brevipes*, one; Common Sandpiper, *Tringa hypoleuca*, one; Sanderling, *Calidris alba*, 30; Red-necked Stint, *Calidris ruficollis*, 11; and Turnstone, *Arenaria interpres*, 12.

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Spotted Crake and Variegated Wren at Pelican Point.—On November 25, 1975 several Naturalists' Club members saw a single Spotted Crake (*Porzana fluminea*) feeding along the edge of the sedge surrounding the lagoon at Pelican Point on the Swan River estuary, Perth. This was the first time the Spotted Crake had been observed at the Point. The bird was watched for several minutes and appeared to be a mottled brown immature, lacking the distinctive white spots of the adult, however the characteristic unbarred extensive white under-tail was noted. The tail was flicked continually as the bird moved.

Throughout the winter of 1975 a party of fairy wrens (*Malurus*) were seen on several occasions at the Point, usually feeding in the *Melaleuca* bushes. The birds, numbering up to six, were in non-breeding plumage and were presumed to be Splendid Wrens (*Malurus splendens*). On October 7, 1975 it was noted that there was still no male in breeding plumage amongst the party. However, when they were next seen, on January 3, 1976, a male in the partially moulted plumage of the chestnut-shouldered group of fairy wrens was present. This bird had a dark grey-brown bill, glossy black lores, metallic blue cheek and ear-coverts, and a long, bright chestnut bar on each shoulder. The buff breast was speckled with dark patches.

Considering the habitat Dr. D. L. Serventy believed these to have been the Variegated (or Purple-backed) Wren (*Malurus assimilis*) rather than either the similar Red-winged (*M. elegans*) or Blue-breasted Wrens (*M. pulcherrimus*). This would be at the extreme southern end of the species' coastal range. It has not previously been recorded at Pelican Point. Evidence of breeding was seen on January 9, when one bird in non-breeding plumage solicited and received food from another. The male had progressed further into eclipse plumage by this date and was not noticed when the party was next watched on February 8, 1976.

Other interesting sightings at the Point may be mentioned:

September 5, 1975: Nine terns, probably Whiskered Terns (*Chlidonias hybrida*).

September 22, 1975: One Grey-tailed Tattler (*Tringa brevipes*) in breeding plumage.

December 16, 1975: One small tern, possibly a Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*).

February 17, 1976: Rick Curtis saw a Brown Goshawk (*Accipiter fasciatus*) catch and devour a Red-necked Stint (*Calidris ruficollis*).

March 24, 1976: Two Eastern Golden Plovers (*Pluvialis dominica*).

—BRUCE CORFE, Cairns.